

## CAROL'S CORNER

*I have seen record-breaking delivery times and birth weights, we have confirmed two twin pregnancies and waiting to hear about another; all of this in just the first few months of this year!! Wow!!*

*Another exciting bit of news is Building Families has found relief for it's growing pains.. Kim Wilson!!! I am thrilled to welcome Kim and know with her extensive personal experience with surrogacy she will do a spectacular job. Feel free to call her and welcome her aboard at (619) 401-2555!!*

*I can hardly wait to see what's in store for us in the coming months. We'll keep you posted!*



## Surrogate Mom refuses to deliver until baby's parents arrive to hospital!

Kim helped to create a beautiful family when she gave birth to Ethan in June 1994. Ethan's family was complete when Kim had his baby sister, Nadine, in June 1996. Her surrogacy experience was so wonderful, she soon decided she wanted to help another infertile couple have the child they had been dreaming of. She and her family immediately bonded with their special new couple from Spain.

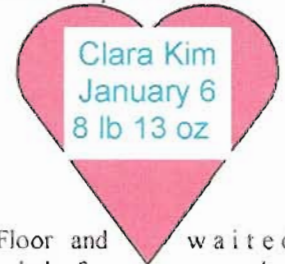
Her couple's return trip

to California was exactly 9 months from their first trip when they underwent the IVF treatment to create their embryos in San Diego with Dr. Gabriel Garzo.

During their stay, we quickly discovered that they loved our "American" pizza! So, as we sat down to our pizza dinner (for the 3rd time that week!), Kim called to let us know she was in labor.

Knowing Kim's labors quite well, I assured the anxious parents-to-be that we had plenty of time to eat dinner and drive to San Diego. Typically, Kim's labors last all night and half

the next day! So, I encouraged them to pack lounging clothes and bring extra pillows as it would be a long night of waiting. Upon arriving to the hospital, we strolled up to the 4th



Floor and waited calmly for a nurse to become available to show us to Kim's room.

Once the nurse heard Kim's name, she excitedly

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## Stork Sees Chiropractor After Record Delivery

After giving birth to triplets as her first surrogacy adventure, all Shirley asked for was an easier pregnancy for another really special couple. Shirley and her family knew instantly that they had a truly wonderful couple and she did achieve a singleton pregnancy, but "easy" would not be the word to describe the experience. Well, 2 out of 3 ain't bad, right Shirley???!?

It all began with an initial positive pregnancy test result of "8" (See Dr. Garzo's notes on Medical Update). We knew the chances of a

successful outcome were very slim, but Dr. Garzo refused to give up on the pregnancy and wouldn't let us either.

He ordered Shirley to continue her injections and to go to bedrest. Shirley diligently followed doctor's orders and every week returned to the clinic for blood tests and ultrasounds, waiting for Dr. Garzo to say that we were finally out of the woods. When that day finally did come, Shirley couldn't believe she was only 4 months along. Most certainly, the first 4 months of her triplet pregnancy

were much easier!!

By this time, Shirley be-



Grace Windham  
January 14  
12 lb 3 oz

gan to wonder if she were carrying twins as her tummy was growing by leaps and bounds. She asked her obstetrician to double check,

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# Dr. Rad's News and Views

## "The Gift of Surrogacy"

We welcome an addition to our psychological team, Dr. Tammy Tucker!

Dr. Tucker is eager to join the monthly group sessions and will begin attending in May.

Welcome Dr. Tucker!!!

### Schedule Change

Beginning in May, the group sessions will be held on the second Thursday of each month. Fliers will be mailed to remind everyone of this change.

Vesna Radojevic, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist who directs the psychology component of Building Families Through Surrogacy

We celebrate the births of two more healthy babies, who have been successfully conceived and brought to the arms of their parents. What can we glean from these successful gifts of surrogacy?

The observations thus far reflect a genuine devotion "from start to finish" on the part of our surrogates and a nurturing environment promoted by both the couple and the Building Families team. While each and every surrogate is unique, some consistent threads can be found. Our surrogates have successfully grappled with the ambiguity of the task from the initial evaluations for entering the program to preparing their bodies, hearts, and families for the conception. They work through this process always towards the final goal of delivering the gift

of a child to their eagerly awaiting couple. As I reflect on these memorable events, I remain in awe of the terrific capacity of these women to give love through the emotional complexity that can describe most of our lives.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have surrogates who believe in and desire to not only help build families, but share with their couple the joys of pregnancy, the excitement of the birth and all along allowing the Building Families team to assist and support them.

Of course, this can be difficult since most, if not all, of our surrogates are independent and self sufficient by nature. There is a trust level that develops and grows between each and everyone and ultimately leads us to a successful surrogacy experience.

Have a happy, healthy and safe spring season (with little or no rain!).

## Surrogate Mom Refuses to Deliver...

(Continued from page 1) told us to go to Labor & Delivery as Kim was taken there upon her arrival to the hospital. I, still calm, told the nurse that she must be mistaken. The woman we were looking for will be in labor until at least the wee hours of the morning. Suddenly the nurse reached across the counter, grabbed my hand and said "Look Honey, if you all have any desire to see this baby's birth, you'll get yourselves to Labor &

Delivery NOW!!"

I turned around, suddenly unable to speak Spanish, as English was difficult enough at the moment, and yelled, "GO! BABY! NOW! RUN!" My babbling was well understood and we all raced to Kim's room only to find out that she had been ready to deliver for over an hour but refused to because Clara's parents had not yet arrived!

When the doctor saw

us, he turned to Kim and asked, "Can I deliver this baby now?" Kim calmly responded, "Yes you may, now that her parents are here." Then just minutes later, Clara arrived!!!

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### SPECIAL DELIVERY

A special congratulations to Omer and Matthew and their new parents!



## Pregnancy Update

The holiday season this year will be spent in sunny California for Carol & Kim. The parents of the babies arriving in December will enjoy the relief from their winters on the East Coast and in Spain.

Here are our pregnant surrogate moms and their due dates:

- Michele July 18
- Tracy December 6
- Jennifer December 25



## Happy Birthday!!!!

- Michele March 3
  - Tracy March 12
  - MaryJane March 12
  - Sandy March 14
  - Carol May 2
  - Kim June 7
  - Chris June 7
- Best Wishes to everyone celebrating in the next few months.

### WELCOME ABOARD!!!

We welcome these surrogate moms and wish them speedy success!!!

- Juliette Christina

**SPECIAL THOUGHTS**

*Miracles happen to those who believe....I believe!*

*Recently, at an embryo transfer, the mom-to-be said to me that she found the entire experience to be spiritual. It seemed quite fitting that the lights were dimmed and that a hush fell over the room when the embryologist walked into the room pushing the incubator carrying their embryos.*

*The embryologist motions for us to come see the embryos before they are transferred into the surrogate mom. I peer through the microscope too, seeing what looks like nothing more than a cluster of tiny bubbles blown from a child's toy. We have witnessed the first of many miracles to come.*

*In a few weeks, we will begin the ultrasounds and watch the growth of one or two of those embryos. Then when the surrogate mom delivers their baby, I can't help but think back to those tiny bubbles I saw 9 months ago, and marvel at this miracle.*

**Stork Sees Chiropractor**

*(Continued from page 1)*  
 so an ultrasound was ordered. The ultrasound technician confirmed that there was one baby, but noted the baby's "long" legs that seemed to go on forever. At every appointment, Shirley had the same complaint for her OB, "This has got to be the biggest baby I have ever had. Are you sure I'm going to make it to my delivery date?" The doctor just smiled and patted her on the back saying "just hang in there", not

realizing that Shirley was right!!

Like many women make their hair appointments, Shirley scheduled her C-Section. Ken, Shirley's husband, wearing a smock-like outfit and hairnet, could have been mistaken for a hairdresser I suppose, but the face mask gave him a more doctor-like appearance. However, when we developed the pictures he took of Grace's first few moments of life, it was obvious his true calling was

photography.

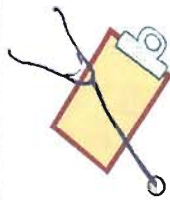
When Grace was taken to the nursery, many physicians and nurses were waiting to see her which caused her parents to worry. But we quickly discovered that everyone was there to see the SECOND BIGGEST BABY ever born at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital!

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Check out our website!!!

[www.bldgfams.com](http://www.bldgfams.com)



**MEDICAL UPDATE**

**What Do The Numbers Mean?**

*Our featured physician is Dr. Gabriel Garzo, Medical Director of the Center for Advanced Reproductive Care in San Diego, CA*

The pregnancy test (BhCG) is performed on the 14th day following the IVF Embryo Transfer and the results are reported in numeric form. There is a direct correlation between this test result and the prediction of the IVF pregnancy outcome. The following chart\* is based on a study examining 305 IVF/GIFT pregnancies at our center in Redondo Beach:

When we receive a low positive result, I believe we should be cautious about stopping hormonal support until we are certain that the pregnancy is not viable. During the initial period of evaluation, if there is any uncertainty, serial blood tests and ultrasound examinations can be performed. For example, Shirley's first BhCG level was 8 mIU/ml, but then increased at a normal

rate. Even though it was a rocky road for several months, we had a successful outcome. The moral is to never make a major decision based on one result unless the one result is clear-cut. Occasionally, we will see results that seem to have a poor prognosis which evolve into happy outcomes.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

*Dear Dr. Garzo, Grace's parents, their families, Shirley and we at Building Families are grateful for your determination in seeing our "poor prognosis" to a happy outcome. We also extend our gratitude to you and your staff for all the support given to each and everyone of us throughout Shirley's experience.*

BhCG(mIU/ml)	<100	100-300	300-500	>500
	(n=70)	(n=94)	(n=65)	(n=76)
Singleton	13%	72%	65%	34%
Multiple	3%	5%	29%	62%
SAB	80%	19%	6%	4%
Ectopic	4%	4%	0%	0%

\*SINGLE QUANTITATIVE BhCG LEVEL CAN PREDICT IVF/GIFT PREGNANCY OUTCOME? JS Heiner, K Hainsworth, RJ Kiltz, DR Meldrum, Div. of Reproductive Endocrinology, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and the Center for Advanced Reproductive Care, Redondo Beach, CA

